

REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the non-final Office Action dated March 15, 2010, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 18-39 are pending in the present application. With this Amendment, claims 21, 28 and 29 have been amended, and claims 18-20, 22-27 and 30-39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 19-23 and 25-34 have been objected to because of minor informalities. Specifically, the Examiner objects to the use of the phrase “shared key” in claims 19, 22 and 23. Additionally, the Examiner alleges that the phrase “third key” is defined twice in claim 21; the phrase “shared key” is defined twice in claim 28; and in claim 29 both the first and second seed values are named “s.”

Claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 25-27 and 30-34 have been canceled thereby rendering the objection to those claims moot. Additionally, the Applicants have amended claims 21, 28 and 29 to address the objection thereto. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 19-23 and 25-34 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 18-20, 22-27, 30-32 and 35-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diffie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,371,794, hereafter “Diffie”) in view of Matyas Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,420, hereafter “Matyas”) and Matyas Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,918,728, hereafter “Abraham”); and claims 33, 34, 38 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diffie, Matyas and Abraham and further in view of Matsui et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0041253, hereafter “Matsui”).

As noted above, claims 18-20, 22-27 and 30-39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Accordingly, the above rejections to those claims are now moot.

Moreover, no prior art rejections were made to claims 21, 28 and 29 and claim 21, 28 and 29 have been amended to address the outstanding objection to the claims. Also, claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of independent claim 19 (now canceled and for which it previously depended). Accordingly, claims 21, 28 and 29 should be distinguishable from the cited prior art without any additional comments being necessary.

In light of the above, the Applicants submit that all the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action, and pass the present application to issue. Additionally, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to resolve any remaining issues in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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